



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



England

# **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm(AAA) Effectiveness Review**

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# NHS England AAA Screening Programme

The NHS England Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme commenced in **2009** and reached population coverage in **2013**.

**The aim of the NHS AAA Screening Programme is to:**

- **reduce AAA-related mortality** by detecting aneurysms early, enabling timely surveillance and referral for treatment when necessary

**The programme achieves this through:**

- a systematic, population-based screening programme targeting men in their 65th year and, on request, men over 65 years old
- Appropriately referring people requiring further investigations promptly to treatment services
- Ensuring high uptake and coverage across the eligible population
- Reducing health inequalities, both in terms of access to services, and health outcomes

# NHS England AAA screening programme

## To the end of 2024-25:

- ❖ Almost **3.5 million** offers of screening to eligible cohort men
- ❖ Over **2.8 million** conclusive tests of eligible cohort men
- ❖ Almost **27,000** aneurysms detected in eligible cohort men
- ❖ Over **8,500** men referred for surgery
- ❖ Over **6,500** AAA repairs undertaken

# Usefulness of the report

**Confirmed our effectiveness**



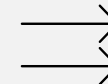
**Celebrate our successes**



**Highlighted areas of focus**



**Alignment with UKNSC**



# What have we been doing to maintain effectiveness

**Maximising uptake**



**Reducing inequalities**



**Evidence map for exit**



**Future planning**



# AAA Screening Objectives 2025/26

## Priority Areas

### Exit strategy – review of evidence

**The What:** Developed an interim position, utilising clinical and key stakeholders.

**Achieved:** streamlined communication between clinical teams and stakeholders, improving collaboration and efficiency ensuring minimal disruption to service delivery.

### Standards review of AAA programme

**The What:** Identification and implementation of updated standards that reflect current evidence-based practices. Updated measurable KPIs to monitor programme effectiveness and patient outcomes.

**Achieved:** Enhanced quality and consistency of data reporting and analysis to support improved clinical outcomes, increase patient safety, and promotion of efficient resource utilisation

### Vascular waits AAA action plan

**The What:** Facilitated regular multi-disciplinary meetings to align priorities, share best practices, and address barriers collaboratively.

**Achieved:** Established effective cross-sector partnerships, strengthening communication and coordination between screening services and specialised commissioning.

### Health inequalities - Addressing the IMD gap & sharing best practice

**The What:** Establishment of collaborative networks among healthcare providers to share effective strategies and resources.

**Achieved:** Measurable improvements in screening uptake rates demonstrated through monitoring and evaluation initiatives – AAA have high overall coverage (91%) and best IMD1-3

# AAA Screening Objectives 2026 and beyond... **DRAFT**

**10-year plan (three shifts)** - The *Fit for the Future* 10-Year Health Plan, alongside the Health Secretary's "three shifts" framework (hospital → community, analogue → digital, treatment → prevention), provides the strategic foundation for NHS transformation. Screening, as a critical prevention tool, must align closely with these priorities.

**Digital Transformation –  
New clinical platform  
implemented**

**AAA and Bowel  
Screening team project**

**AAA Reducing Health  
Inequalities**

**Future Scoping: Research  
& demand signalling**

**Future Scoping with  
Four Nations: Proposal**

**Future Scoping of the  
AAA programme: Exit  
strategy**

## **Key Shifts - AAA Screening alignment**

### **1. Hospital → Community**

- Continue to work with regions to maximise access to screening venues in the community

### **2. Analogue → Digital**

- New clinical IT platform to be rolled out in 2026/2027- leveraging digital tools to increase participation rates and overall clinical outcomes.
- Integration in 2026/27 with NHS Notify, GP connect and the NHS App

### **3. Treatment → Prevention**

- AAA screening remains one of the highest performing adult programmes, with 82% initial screen coverage, the recent DHSC effectiveness review confirms this.
- Uptake in the most deprived areas improved significantly from 47% (2021/22) to 75% (2024/25)
- Build on AAA health inequalities work



# Looking to the future

- A lot has been achieved within the programme which is demonstrated through the DHSC effectiveness report and increasing performance across the standards
- NHS England are looking toward future scoping of the programme in line with effectiveness report recommendations, population health need and the changing NHS landscape
- Working collaboratively with DHSC as we transition into the new organisation
- Focusing on what is next for the programme so it can continue to reduce AAA-related mortality by detecting aneurysms early
- Get ready for the next AAA effectiveness review

